

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18-28 are pending in the present application; Claims 4, 17, and 27 having been canceled; and Claims 1, 14-16, 20, 26, and 28 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to, the specification was objected to, Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and each of the pending claims was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 using a combination including at least Ohara (U.S. 7,136,179) in view of Whitmarsh (U.S. 2002/0101608).

The drawings were objected to because of specific informalities. These objections have been addressed.

1. Reference numbers 165 and 174 in Figure 3 were objected to as they are not mentioned in the specification. It is clear that these elements are buses and the reference numbers 165 and 174 have been deleted from Figure 3.

2. Regarding S903 in Figure 10, the specification has been amended at p. 28, line 6, to make clear that the description appearing at this portion of the specification corresponds to step S903.

3. The outstanding Office Action has objected to Figure 11 and has requested that reference number 307 in Figure 11 be changed to 305. The current Figure 11 is correct and reference number 307 should be 307 and should not be changed to 305. 305 is used for element "inetd" in Figure 11, and also Figure 4, for example. It would be erroneous to change 307 to 305 in Figure 11 and accordingly, this change has not been made.

4. The drawings were objected to because reference number 100 mentioned at p. 17, lines 10 and 24 is not shown in the drawings. However, reference number 100 is shown

throughout the drawings, for example in Figures 1, 2, and 4. As this reference number is described in the specification and shown in the drawings, it is unclear why the mention of reference number 100 is objected to.

5. The use of reference number 220 at p. 42 and p. 43 was objected to because the drawings do not include the reference number 220. However, 220 is shown in Figure 1 and also described in the specification at p. 11, line 13. Thus, it is unclear why reference number 220 described in the specification is alleged not to be shown in the drawings.

6. At p. 18, line 23, “201” has been changed to “201 (Fig. 8b)” as requested.

7. “202” at p. 18, line 24 has been changed to “202 (Fig. 7)” as requested.

8. At p. 28, line 6, the term “request message” has been changed to “request message in step S903” as requested.

9. At p. 42, line 6, reference number 160 has been changed to 1601, as requested.

Based on the above, the objections to the specification and drawings is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. This rejection is now moot as Claim 27 has been canceled.

Claims 1-6, 8, 13-19, 21 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohara in view of Whitmarsh. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to amended independent Claims 1, 14, and 28.

Taking independent Claim 1 as an example, there is recited an information providing part configured to function as a Web server. This Web server is configured to provide to a client terminal screen data to be displayed as a Web screen by a Web browser. The screen data is used for selecting one or more image forming apparatuses among from a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to a network. Further, there is a print request part for

distributing print data and a print request to one or more image forming apparatuses selected on the Web screen.

Thus, from Claim 1, it is clear that Claim 1 relates to a combination including a Web server which allows a user to select at a client terminal one or more image forming apparatuses.

The outstanding Office Action at the bottom of page 6 acknowledges that Ohara does not disclose the use of a Web browser in the client terminal and refers to Whitmarsh for this feature. However, it would not be obvious to combine the Whitmarsh Web browser feature with Ohara. With a Web browser, the Web server is required to store and transmit the appropriate information to the client which is using a Web server. However, such storage of information is not used in Ohara but it appears from Ohara that the selection information is stored on the client. This conclusion is reached by the study of Figure 6 of Ohara which shows the operation of the print server. The print server starts in Figure 6, step S601 of Ohara by the server receiving requests from a client. Thus, the information regarding selection is stored on the client and does not appear to operate as a Web server would.

Accordingly, the rejection of each of the pending independent claims is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons the independent claims from which they depend are patentable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

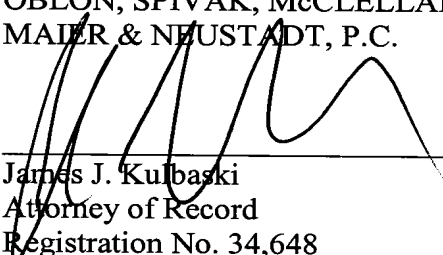
Respectfully submitted,

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